

Final Decision Notice
Missouri Headwaters State Park Capital Project

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

April 5, 2000

PROPOSAL

The proposed action published in the draft environmental assessment (EA) on March 9, 2000 is to grant an easement to Montana Power Company to install a 100-kilovolt power transmission line within Missouri Headwaters State Park, remove approximately 2 miles of an overhead 50-kilovolt transmission line, with the existing under-built distribution line buried to a point terminating at the park entrance station and the picnic area.

Specific components of the proposed project are described in EA as follows:

- ▶ Holnam Cement Plant is supported electrically by one 100-kilovolt (kV) feed from the Three Rivers Substation to the Trident Auto Substation. The towns of Manhattan and Three Forks are currently fed from the Trident Auto Substation with a 50 kV line system. Installation of the second 100 kV line between the Three Rivers Substation and the Trident Auto Substation will increase the load capacity in the area. Reliability of service to the cement plant and the town of Manhattan will be enhanced by forestalling any outages should one of the 100 kV lines be rendered non-serviceable for any reason.
- ▶ Reliability of service to the Helena area will be enhanced as the Trident Auto Substation is tied to Helena by a 100 kV line. Should one of the 100 kV lines between Three Rivers Substation and Trident Auto Substation be removed from service for any reason, non-interrupted service to the Helena area can be maintained.
- ▶ Installation of this line, in conjunction with the new lines and substation being installed in the Three Forks area, will allow the elimination of the existing 50 kV feed from the Trident Auto Substation to Three Forks. When this 50 kV line is removed a substantial portion of the Missouri Headwaters State Park will be freed from the encumbrance of an overhead electric transmission facility.

The proposed project would remove approximately 2 miles of an overhead 50-kilovolt transmission line, which extends along highway 286, through Missouri Headwater State Park. The under built distribution line would then be buried to a point terminating at the park entrance station approximately 3,750 linear feet from the south end of the park boundary. This line would continue to service electrical needs at the entrance station and the park campground. This work would be permitted under an existing easement.

A second distribution line would be buried to a point terminating at the park picnic area approximately 2,000 linear feet from the northeast park boundary. This line would continue to service electrical needs at the park picnic area.

A 100-kilovolt-transmission line will be installed at the far northeast point of the park near the Missouri River access (boat ramp) area.

Fish Wildlife & Parks developed two alternatives for the proposal. The following alternatives are those, which were published in the draft EA during the public comment period.

Gallatin

ALTERNATIVE A - Preferred Option

Alternative A would allow, under the existing easement, the removal of a substantial portion of the 50-kv transmission line through the park and placement of underground power lines to points in the park where electrical services are required. This alternative would require a new easement and approval from the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission for the placement of an overhead 100-kv transmission line at the northeast boundary of the park.

ALTERNATIVE B - NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Implementation of Alternative B would involve the continued reliance on the existing power transmission line through the park. Under this alternative FWP would deny Montana Power Company permission to redesign or install transmission lines or services within the park.

PUBLIC PROCESS AND COMMENT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has conducted this environmental assessment (EA) in an open forum to allow the participation of the public, concerned organizations and government agencies. During the public comment phase of the EA process, March 9 to March 24, 2000, one written comment was received from The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO raised the concern of a vegetative anomaly at a point along the route that underground distribution line would be located. This anomaly suggested the presence of a human caused feature. SHPO suggested two alternative courses of action. The alternative was first to conduct further cultural testing prior to burying the distribution line to identify the anomaly. The second suggestion was route the distribution line around the anomaly.

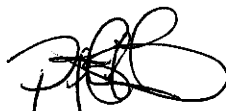
DECISION

The recommended action is to grant a new easement for the overhead 100-kV distribution line. A vegetative anomaly does exist. The underground distribution line will be realigned to avoid the vegetative anomaly and any potential impacts to cultural features. Montana Power Company will discharge their current easement and be granted a new easement to reflect a new alignment of the underground distribution line. The proposed action poses no significant effect to the human or natural environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to implement the proposed action (Alternative A) with the above listed measures to avoid the vegetative anomaly identified in the Cultural Resource Inventory Report and State Historical Preservation Office review. By notice of this decision notice, the draft EA is hereby made the final EA with the modifications and additions listed above.

Implementation of this project will take place during the spring of 2000.

This decision notice is subject to appeal under Montana Statute 23-1-110. Appeals may be requested by individuals, organizations, or agencies that offered oral or written comments during the thirty-day public comment period. Appeals must be submitted to the Regional Supervisor, Region Three Headquarters in writing or received by May 5, 2000.



Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

April 3, 1998

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office
Parks Division
Design & Construction Bureau
Legal Unit
FWP Commissioners

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main, Bozeman, MT 59715
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
Rep. Shiell Anderson, 738 HWY 89 N, Livingston, MT 59047-1234
Rep. Joe Barnett, 201 Spooner Rd, Belgrade, MT 59714-3429
Rep. Beverly Barnhart, 614 S. 6th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715-4566
Rep. Rod Marshall, 2520 Fairway Dr., Bozeman, MT 59715-5843
Rep. Bob Raney, 212 S. 6th St., Livingston, MT 59047-3023
Rep. Emily Swanson, 15042 Kelly Canyon Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715-9625
Rep. Steve Vick, 5875 Thorpe Rd., Belgrade, MT 59714-8909
Rep. Jack Wells, 150 Coulee Dr., Bozeman, MT 59715-7717
Sen. Dorothy Eck, 10 W. Garfield St., Bozeman, MT 59715-5602
Sen. C.A. Emerson, King Tool Inc., 5350 Love Ln., Bozeman, MT 59715-9408
Sen. Don Hargrove, P.O. Box 1, Belgrade, MT 59714-0001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Missouri Headwaters State Park Capital Project. Missouri Headwaters State Park is located approximately 5 miles east of Three Forks, Montana. A public comment period will be from April 3, 1998 through 5 p.m., May 4, 1998.

The Draft EA may be viewed at or obtained upon request from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, at the Region 3 Headquarters in Bozeman (994-4042), Helena Area Resource Office (449-8864), and the Butte Area Resource Office (494-1952).

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

DRAFT

HWSPCAPT.EA

MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Missouri Headwaters State Park Capital Project.
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks has the authority to provide development for public recreation on Department lands (23-1-102 MCA)
3. Name of Project Missouri Headwaters State Park Capital Project.
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)
5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date May of 1998

Estimated Completion Date May of 1999

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 0% Pending EA decision notice.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Missouri Headwater State Park, Gallatin County, Range 2E., Township 2N.

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Developed: | (d) Floodplain |
| residential | acres |
| industrial | |
| (b) Open Space/Woodlands/ | (e) Productive: |
| Recreation . . . <u>5 to 6</u> | irrigated cropland |
| acres | dry cropland |
| | forestry |
| (c) Wetlands/Riparian | rangeland |
| Areas | other |
| acres | |

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

(See Attached) Missouri Headwaters Vicinity Map

Capital Projects Map

Maps were produced using ArcView software, integrating GIS shape and USGS Raster files.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

The proposed action being considered for the Missouri Headwaters State Park is to repair and upgrade existing infrastructure facilities and interpretive components at this important Montana State Park.

Specifically, the proposal calls for major repair or replacement of two drinking water systems in the Park. The two systems are located in the picnic area and the campground respectively. The systems are over twenty years old and neither of the systems are consistently providing acceptable drinking water test results. In addition, water quality standards are slowly becoming more stringent and test standards are rising, which may lead to a situation where FWP will need to incorporate a water treatment system into the Park drinking water system in order to continue providing this amenity. In addition, plumbing components at the dump station are deteriorating and the proposal would include repair and/or replacement of these parts.

The picnic area turf irrigation system is also over twenty years old. This irrigation sprinkler system is crucial to maintaining an appealing and pleasant environment in the Park picnic area. In recent years the system has necessitated frequent repairs and the reliability of the system is failing. Silt deposition from two successive years of flooding have buried the system deeper in the ground necessitating sprinkler head extensions. Replacement parts are getting harder to acquire and more expensive to purchase. The proposal is to investigate the system and either repair the existing system, if feasible, or replace the system with a new irrigation system design. An additional part of this proposal would be to plant 5-10 new trees in the picnic area to replace dead or dying trees.

Improvements to the interpretive plaza comfort station (flush toilet restrooms) are also proposed as a part of this project. These facilities were constructed before standards to accommodate disabled visitors had been developed. The proposed improvements to the comfort station would make this facility accessible to the disabled and would include replacement of existing fixtures (toilets, urinal and sinks) along with the appropriate plumbing system modifications to make these fixtures useable by disabled visitors.

The final component of proposed Missouri Headwaters improvements would be to examine the Parks' interpretation presentation and improve, upgrade and add to existing interpretive offerings. Over the years, since the original interpretive design was implemented, historical research has provided either new information or a different conclusion to existing information. In addition, some of the plaques have been vandalized or stolen. Finally, public interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial (of which the Missouri headwaters is a key geographical landmark) will provide an opportunity to expand educational and interpretive offerings for Park visitors.

The benefits of this proposal are many. Clean, safe drinking water is a public health and safety issue. Without the listed improvements to the drinking water systems FWP will be forced to cease offering potable water. This action would jeopardize keeping the Park campground open. The proposed improvements to the picnic area comfort station will more respectfully allow disabled visitors to derive a quality recreation/education experience at the Park and better accommodate their specialized needs. Proposed improvements to the picnic area irrigation system will allow park managers to continue to provide a pleasing and aesthetic environment for visitors to picnic, sightsee, visit with family and friends or simply rest. Replacing dying trees will benefit Park users with a more pleasing environment, habitat for wildlife and songbirds, and shade for a picnic. Improvements to the interpretive and educational opportunities at the Park will stimulate Park visitors to learn about the natural and historical resources embodied in the Park and the significance of the headwaters area. Finally, the proposed improvements to Park facilities and interpretive offerings will better accommodate expected visitation increases that are being predicted due to interest in Lewis and Clarks' Corps of Discovery.

See **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**, page 14, for project component cost estimates and additional information concerning Missouri Headwaters State Park "Primitive Parks" status.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
N/A	

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
N/A	

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

State Historical Preservation Office
FWP, Design and Construction Bureau
FWP, Parks Division

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the Impacts of the Proposed Action Including Secondary and Cumulative Impacts on the Physical and Human Environment:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated. Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ♦ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

▶ 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u>	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-I, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
I. ♦For P-R/D-I, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts. Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-I, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ✱ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources						See 10E.
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.						See 10F.
g. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10E. Capital projects will be funded with the state bed tax funding.

10F. It is anticipated that overall maintenance costs should decrease, due to the repair and upgrade of facility components.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

▶ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			SEE 11C.
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11C. Upgraded restroom and drinking water services will provide for a higher level of visitor health and safety. See attached Tourism Report.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
▶ a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				See 12D.
e. Other: <u>NONE</u>		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12D. See attached SHPO letters of clearance.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ▶ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-I, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-I, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts. Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (Continued)

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

ALTERNATIVE A - Preferred Option

Alternative A would entail improvements to the park's two water systems to achieve consistent water test results, as well as provide the capability to install a water treatment system in the future as water standards dictate. This alternative would include making the necessary repairs to the dump station plumbing to improve the reliability and maintainability of this facility. The preferred alternative would also involve replacement or repair of the picnic area irrigation system to increase its reliability and performance. Adapting the interpretive plaza comfort station to accommodate disabled visitors, replacing dying trees in the picnic area, and making improvements and additions to the current interpretive offerings at the park would also be contained in the preferred alternative. The purpose and benefits of the preferred alternative are described in the Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action, page 2. The checklist (Environmental Review) beginning on page 4, documents the resource and human impacts of the preferred alternative.

ALTERNATIVE B

Implementation of alternative B would involve closing down the drinking water, sewage dump station, and picnic irrigation systems. This alternative would also direct that interpretive signs or plaques, when vandalized or stolen would not be replaced. Under this alternative, disabled park visitors would be directed to disabled accessible vault latrines located in other areas of the park. Implementation of this alternative would result in closing facilities in the park rather than repairing, replacing or upgrading them. While this alternative would involve virtually no costs and no natural resource impacts, it would also provide little customer service and no park experience enhancement. Visitors to the park have made it clear that basic facilities and interpretive information is essential to an enjoyable and successful park experience.

ALTERNATIVE C - NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Implementation of Alternative C would involve the continued reliance on the existing drinking water, irrigation, and sewage dump station systems. As trees die in the picnic area they would be removed but not replaced. The existing interpretive plaza comfort station would be maintained but would continue to be unavailable to disabled park visitors. The existing interpretive information in the park would be cared for and vandalized or stolen plaques would be replaced. Misinformation on existing interpretive plaques would continue and new information would not be used in the park's interpretive efforts. Implementation of this alternative would be costly in the long run as FWP attempts to maintain old, out-of-date systems whose reliability is failing. Down-time of the various systems would increase as parts become less available and more costly and visitor needs may often go unmet. Unacceptable water test results would necessitate closing water systems. Implementation of Alternative C would ignore basic customer service principles and generally lower the quality of visitors' park experiences.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Projects listed in this EA focus primarily on major maintenance improvement, it is anticipated that no mitigative measures are necessary for the completion for the individual or combination of capital projects.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

No further analysis is necessary due to the nature and lack of any significant impacts from the individual projects or combination of projects presented in this EA. These projects address the major maintenance issues as they relate in meeting minimum public health standards, public safety, maintaining existing facilities and reducing maintenance costs.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

Public announcements through local newspapers will be made in accordance to MEPA guidelines. Newspapers listed below will receive announcements requesting public comment. A mailing of the draft EA will be made to individuals registered to receive agency MEPA documents.

News Papers: Bozeman Daily Chronicle
Independent Record
Three Forks Herald

State Electronic Bulletin Board

6. Duration of comment period if any:

A thirty day public comment period starting April 3, 1998 and ending at 5 PM, May 4, 1998.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Ray Heagney, Parks Operations Specialist
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406)994-6934

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The 1996 Legislature appropriated funding for capital improvements at Missouri Headwaters State Park. The funding was allocated from Montana State Park share of Accommodations Tax (Bed Tax) funds.

Proposed Missouri Headwaters State Park Capital Project cost estimates:

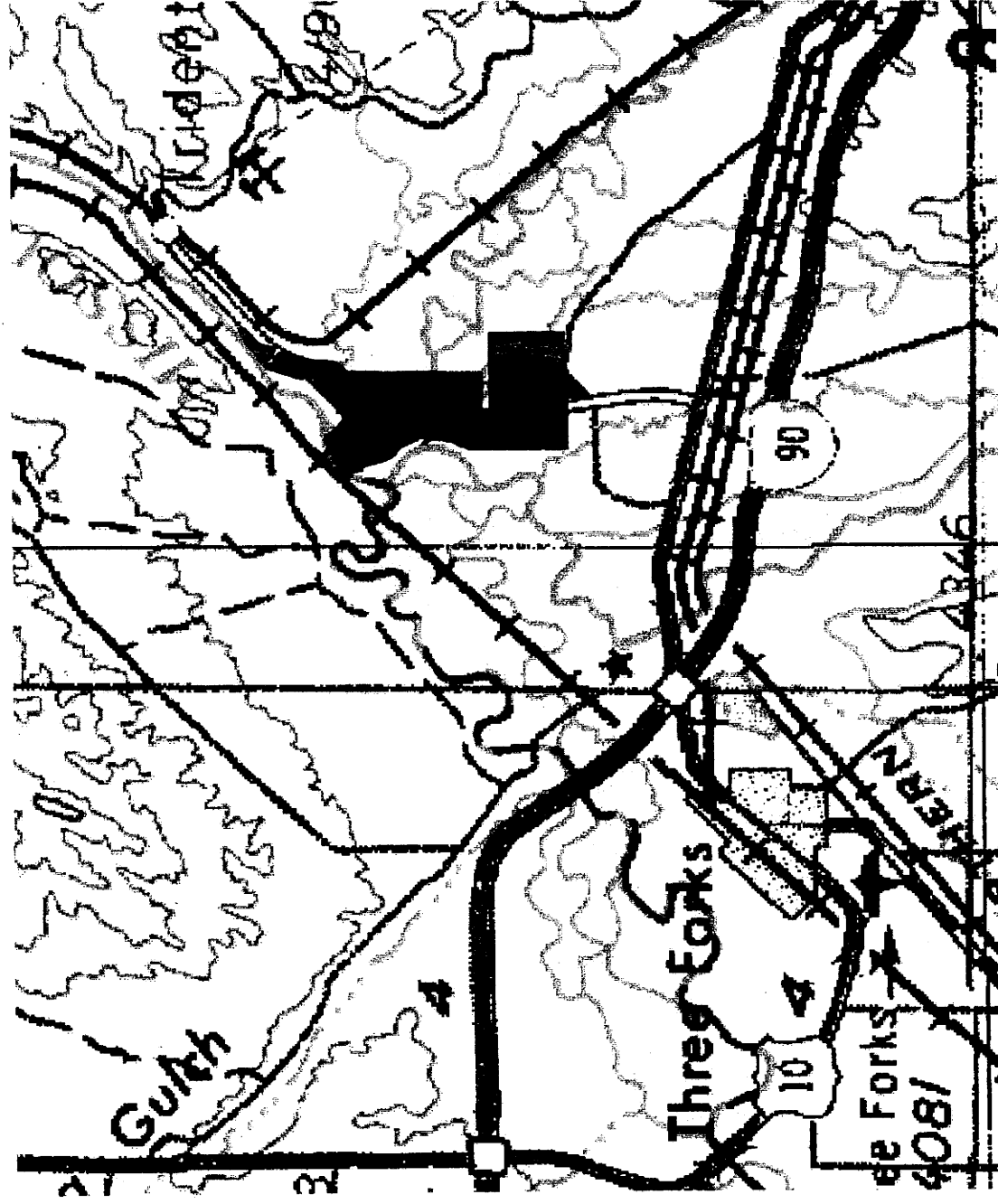
Drinking water systems, and dump station repair/improvements	\$25,000
Irrigation system repair/replacement	\$15,000
Picnic area tree replacement (5-10 mature trees)	\$ 5,000
Interpretive plaza comfort station disabled accessibility improvements	\$10,000
Interpretive improvements	\$25,000
Contingency for unexpected costs on above projects	\$10,000
Total Project Funding	\$90,000

Primitive Parks

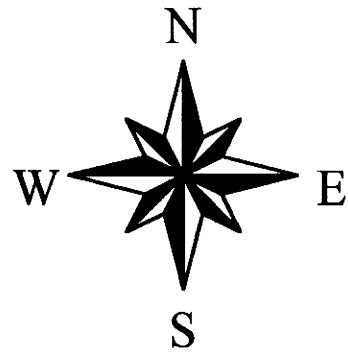
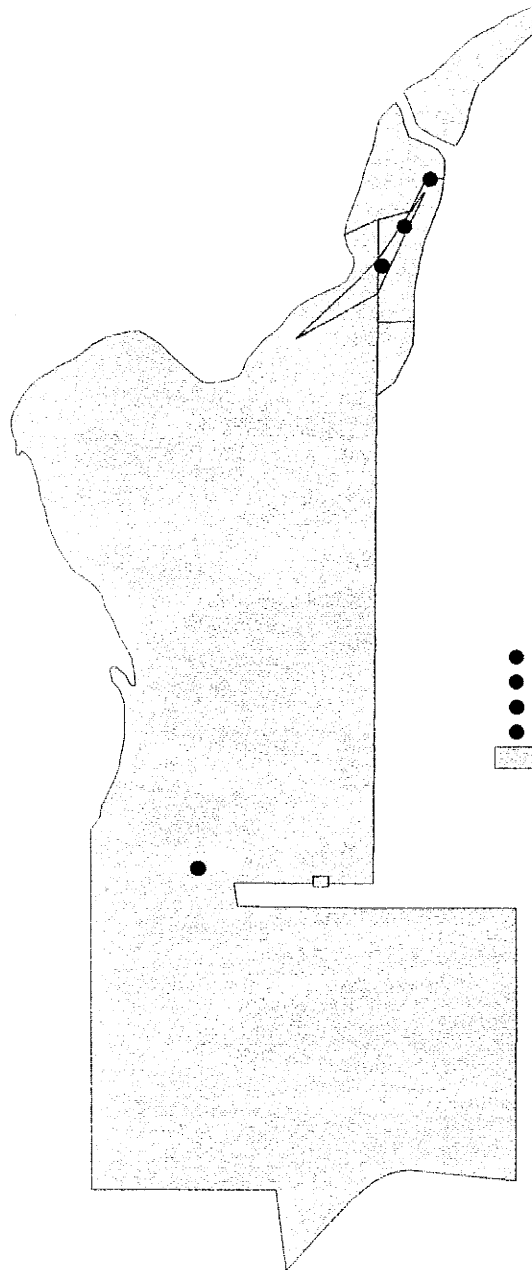
House Bill Number 314, passed by the 53rd Montana Legislature (1994), designated and established certain Montana State Parks as primitive parks. This designation serves to limit facility development and eliminates day use fees for Montana residents visiting these parks. Missouri Headwaters State Park is one of fifteen Montana State Parks with this designation. This legislation limits development to necessary improvements required to meet minimum public health standards, and permits maintenance of existing facilities. In addition, the legislation permits improvements necessary to ensure the safe public use of existing boat ramps, adding gravel to gravel roads, establishment of new hiking trails and the installation of minimal signing. The legislation requires signing to encourage the public to help in maintaining the park's primitive character by packing out trash. Prohibited new developments include electric lines or facilities, recreational vehicle sanitary dumpsites where they do not presently exist and the creation of new paved roads.

Missouri Headwaters State Park

Vicinity Map



MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK CAPITAL PROJECT



- Picnic area irrigation system
 - Picnic area drinking water system
 - Interpretive plaza comfort station
 - Campground drinking water and dump station systems
- Missouri Headwaters State Park

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

NHPA Section 106 \ Other Consultation

This form constitutes a record of your consultation with the Montana Historic Preservation Officer on a particular project and is the official SHPO reply. The dates of SHPO actions appear in the appropriate boxes.

Please Route This Form To:		FWP Michael Horn	
Your Agency Requested Consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on this Project under this Law or Regulation:			
		Section 106	
PROJECT NUMBER		AGENCY	FWP
PROJECT NAME and Other Descriptions	Headwaters State Park Improvements	Date and Separate Requests to SHPO on This Project	OTHER Agency
			02/09/98
			Stan
THIS FORM documents		1	Individual actions.
Memo(s) to Sender	<p>Michael:</p> <p>Thank you of notifying us of FWP plans to upgrade various components of the Headwaters State Park infrastructure so early in your planning cycle. In light of the growing groundswell of interest in Lewis and Clark the park will certainly see more intense use and we can appreciate the need for the proposed improvements.</p> <p>Our database search indicated two reports of interest relating to the park's history and the Lewis and Clark context - Curtis (GA 6 10830) and Malouf (ZZ 6 13032). Both will likely be valuable for development of the proposed interpretation but neither appears to be based on any sort of park inspection or inventory. Do you have record of past cultural inventory? It may very well be the case that previous construction and present use has resulted in a level of surface and subsurface disturbance which precludes the usefulness of additional surface inventory, but we are without a baseline of information on which to base any opinion at this time. As proposals become more specific, and should you have record of past inventory, please include us in your planning.</p> <p>We certainly think that the services of a consultant for interpretive development would be prudent, and hope that such an effort will entail consideration of the views of a number of likely concerned publics. To the degree appropriate we would like to continue some role in that process also. Thanks again.</p>		
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY The SHPO Has Considered Whether, per Your Request, Sites Either Meet or Do Not Meet the Criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. The Finding of the SHPO is as Follows:		Sites which Meet National Register Criteria	Sites Not Meeting National Register Criteria
Criterion A Findings	Criterion B Findings	Criterion C Findings	Criterion D Findings
RECEIVED			


Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/25/98	# of pages	2
To	RAY HEAGNEY	From	MIKE HORN		
Co./Dept.	FWP/PARKS	Co.	FWP/D+C		
Phone #	994-4042	Phone #	444-3255		
Fax #	406-994-4090	Fax #	444-3867		

M 20 1998

 & CONSTRUCTION
 SH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Montana Historic Preservation Consultation form Page 2

February 18, 1998

DETERMINATIONS OF EFFECT The shpo has considered whether this undertaking will have an affect on significant historic properties. The finding of the shpo is as follows:		No Eligible or Listed Properties Are Within the Area of Potential Effect		The Project Will Have NO EFFECT on These Eligible Properties	
Descriptions of Effects on Eligible Property Using 36 CFR 800.9				The Effect on These Properties is:	
				Adverse	
				Not Adverse	
Other Comments:					
Reviewer Signatures				02/18/98	:Dates
	Stan Wilmoth, Ph.D. HPO				

RECEIVED MAR 31 1998


MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

NHPA Section 106 \ Other Consultation

This form constitutes a record of your consultation with the Montana Historic Preservation Officer on a particular project and is the official SHPO reply. The dates of SHPO actions appear in the appropriate boxes.

Please Route This Form To:		Ray Heagney FWP 1400 S. 19th Bozeman, MT 59718			
Your Agency Requested Consultation with the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on this Project under this Law or Regulation:					
		Section 106, 16 USC 470f			
PROJECT NUMBER		AGENCY	FWP	OTHER Agency	
PROJECT NAME and Other Descriptions	Headwaters State Improvements	Dates and Separate Requests to SHPO on This Project			
THIS FORM documents		1	individual actions.		
Memo(s) to Sender	<p>Ray: Thank you for taking the time to contact with additional information regarding the improvements at Headwaters. Base on our conversation today I understand that the proposed work would not likely extend into previously undisturbed deposits. We concur that under those circumstances no surface inventory or trench monitoring appear to be warranted. Should future projects be proposed which on the basis of scale or location may have potential to disturb intact deposits we may want to recommend monitoring or some other identification effort. It is difficult to evaluate potential effects without any previous archaeological assessment. Thanks again.</p>				
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY The SHPO Has Considered Whether, per Your Request, Sites Either Meet or Do Not Meet the Criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. The Finding of the SHPO Is as Follows:		Sites which Meet National Register Criteria		Sites Not Meeting National Register Criteria	
Criterion A Findings	Criterion B Findings	Criterion C Findings		Criterion D Findings	
DETERMINATIONS OF EFFECT The SHPO has considered whether this undertaking will have an affect on significant historic properties. The finding of the SHPO is as follows:		No Eligible or Listed Properties Are Within the Area of		The Project Will Have NO EFFECT on These	
		Potential Effect		Eligible Properties	
Descriptions of Effects on Eligible Property Using 36 CFR 800.9					The Effect on These Properties Is:
					Adverse

March 30, 1998

		Not Adverse.	
Other Comments:			
Reviewer Signatures		03/30/98	:Dates
	Stan Wilmoth, Ph.D. HPO		

RECEIVED MAR 2 3 1998

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB 495
TOURISM REPORT

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in tis consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Clint Blackwood, Tourism Development
Montana Promotion Division
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name Missouri Headwaters State Park Capital Project

Project Description Upgrade of existing facilities and interpretive displays within the park

1. Would this site development project have a impact on the tourism economy?

☐ NO

☒ Yes

If YES, briefly describe:

The proposed improvements could have a modest, but positive impact on the local tourism economy as visitors to the Missouri Headwaters State Park may stay longer, and in so doing spend more money on food and gifts, etc.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

☐ NO

☒ Yes

If YES, briefly describe:

yes, we believe the planned capital improvements for the Missouri Headwaters State Park will improve the quality, and possibly the quantity, of the recreation/tourism opportunities for visitors (resident + non-resident).

Signature

G. F. Schwood, Tourism Development Coordinator
3/19/98 Travel Montana